

# COUNTY OF YORK

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 2, 2002 (BOS Mtg. 10/15/02)

**TO:** York County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** James O. McReynolds, County Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Through Truck Restriction on a Portion of Richneck Road

### Issue

The Newport News City Manager's Office has requested that York County consider asking the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to establish a "No Through Trucks" restriction on the portion of Richneck Road between Fort Eustis Boulevard and the Newport News City line. The City's request and supporting reasons for the restriction are contained in the attached letter from Neil Morgan, Assistant City Manager, dated September 16, 2002.

In accordance with VDOT procedures, any request for establishment of No Through Trucks restrictions on County roadways must originate from the Board of Supervisors subsequent to the Board conducting a duly advertised public hearing. Upon receipt of the request, VDOT will review the proposed restriction against the following criteria. At least three of the five factors must be met in order for the restriction to be approved.

- ? Is there a reasonable alternate route available that will not create an undue hardship for trucks in reaching their destination? Is the alternate route properly engineered for truck traffic?

*The City of Newport News has determined that Richneck Road is not appropriate for through trucks. Staff concurs and believes that Fort Eustis Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue provide a much more appropriate and well-suited alternate route capable of handling large truck traffic.*

- ? Is the road requested for restriction functionally classified as a local or collector street?

*VDOT considers Richneck Road to be an urban collector street.*

- ? Is the character and/or frequency of the truck traffic incompatible with the character of the area?

*Although most of the area along the York County portion of Richneck Road is undeveloped Waterworks property, there are several residences near the Newport News border. In addition, the relatively narrow width of the road surface is not suited to truck traffic. In staff's opinion, any amount of through*

*truck traffic is inconsistent with the residential character and the condition of the roadway.*

- ? Is the engineering and/or accident history of the roadway such that it is not suitable for truck traffic?

*The subject portion of Richneck Road is relatively narrow and has virtually no shoulder area. In comparison to Fort Eustis Boulevard and Jefferson Avenue, its design/engineering characteristics are much less suitable for truck traffic.*

- ? Within 150 feet of the centerline, are there at least 12 dwellings per 1000 feet of roadway?

*The total length of the subject segment of Richneck Road is approximately 4,000 feet and undeveloped Waterworks property abuts over three-quarters of that length. Therefore, the 12 dwellings/1000 feet standard is not met.*

It is staff's opinion that four of the five required criteria are met. However, this determination must be made by VDOT subsequent to review of engineering, traffic volume and accident records by its District and State Traffic Engineers. After that review and analysis, VDOT must also publish notice of the proposed restriction and provide a thirty-day comment period prior to a final decision being made by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

### **Recommendation**

I believe that the requested No Through Trucks restriction is reasonable given the character and condition of this segment of Richneck Road and the availability of a well-suited alternate route – Fort Eustis Boulevard/Jefferson Avenue – that is designed to carry commercial/industrial truck traffic. Furthermore, such a designation would seem prudent given the action taken by Newport News on its segment of Richneck Road. Therefore, I recommend that the Board adopt proposed Resolution R02-182 to officially request VDOT to establish the restriction.

Carter/3337:jmc

### **Attachments**

- ? Copy of letter from Neil Morgan, Assistant City manager, Newport News
- ? Vicinity Map
- ? Proposed Resolution R02-182